

[Download 2010 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors](#)

[The Oregon Partnership](#) provides a Military Helpline for those struggling with depression or substance abuse: 1-888-457-4838

Commonly Asked Questions

I would like more information about the new education benefits provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Where can I find information about this program and how can I apply?

As of August 1, 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides eligible individuals with the opportunity to receive graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational/technical training, on the job training, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement. The Department of Veterans Affairs maintains an up-to-date website dedicated to helping veterans access these benefits. [Please visit this site](#) to learn more and see if the program is right for you and also contact the Veterans' Services Coordinator at the institution you plan to attend for more specific information.

I am a Veteran and pursuing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Can Congressman Blumenauer assist me with the process?

Yes. My staff works with the Department of Veterans Affairs on a daily basis. We are happy to assist you with claims you are pursuing, including matters as simple as receiving an update about your case. Our close working relationship with the VA allows us to have information added to your file quickly, and we usually receive information about the progress of your claim within hours of an inquiry. Additionally, if your case has been outstanding for a considerable amount of time, an inquiry from my office can sometimes speed the processing so that you get the answers you need.

I am a Veteran and I am having difficulty getting an appointment or appropriate care at the Portland V.A. Medical Center. Can Congressman Blumenauer assist me with this issue?

Yes. My office maintains a working relationship with staff at the PVAMC and speaks to them on behalf of veterans on a regular basis. If there is an urgent situation, an inquiry from my staff can often reduce wait times for appointments or get you updates on your case. The staff at the VA Medical Center works very hard, but if you are not pleased with the care that you are receiving, my office can make inquiries with the PVAMC on your behalf.

I am having difficulty receiving a military record that I need, or receiving medals that I earned in service, or replacements of medals that I earned in

service. Can Congressman Blumenauer help me with this situation?

Yes. My staff works with the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis to gain records more quickly than under normal circumstances. We can also help you receive medals that you have earned but never were awarded, or obtain replacements for lost or stolen service medals.

Contact the V.A.

Department of Veterans Affairs

[Portland VA Medical Center](#) 1-800-827-1000 1220 SW 3rd Ave Portland, OR 97204 **Th**
e V.A. Online

The V.A. recently unveiled a new website for veterans called [VONAPP](#). Veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery.

Congressman Blumenauer's office recommends that you work with a [Veterans Service Officer](#) of your choice when filing any claim with the Veterans Administration. The VA process and requirements are very complicated, and the service of a VSO is invaluable in filing a successful claim.

Veterans Service Officers:

[Service Officer Locator National Service Officers](#)

[Service Officer Locator Oregon State Veteran Service Officers](#)

[Service Officer Locator County Veteran Service Officers](#)

For help with this agency, [email Congressman Blumenauer](#) or call his district office at (503) 231-2300

[Portland-Milwaukie Language Request.pdf](#)

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